



Places and Context Sensitive Design

By
Prof Mike Dobbins



Places and Context Sensitive design

- Frontiers: *change*
- Places: *where people want to be*
- Place builders: *all of us*
- Public involvement: *citizen guidance*
- Process: *shared decision-making*
- sacred cows and common sense



Change

- Information
- Markets
- Settlement patterns
- Transportation responses
- Attitudes
- Practices
- Outcomes



Places

- ***Destinations***, where people want to be:
 - to live, to work, to shop, to learn, to congregate, to recreate
- The importance of ***design*** in the quality of place
- The “***purpose and need***” of every trip:
 - Why we took the trip in the first place, to get from some PLACE to some PLACE, and
 - Every trip begins and ends walking







Place Builders

- ***Transdisciplinary*** – we all build places
 - ☐ engineers, architects, planners, landscape architects
 - ☐ developers, lawyers, contractors, lenders
 - ☐ government agencies of all types and at all levels
 - ☐ most important, places are built by people, for people

- ***Who judges?***
 - ☐ Our various professions?
 - ☐ The media?
 - ☐ Ultimately the people there, before and after



Public Involvement

■ Information

- ☐ full and transparent access

■ Vision

- ☐ how can we make our places look, feel and work better

■ Trust

- ☐ building the bridges of trust between the people, government and the private sector

■ Action

- ☐ all our work, together, must be geared toward action



Process

- **Interactive, Democratic, Consensual**

- ☐ involving all the “players”
- ☐ transdisciplinary leadership
- ☐ shared decision-making
- ☐ getting it done

VS.

- **Linear, Hierarchical, Mandated**

- ☐ the old way







Sacred cows and Common sense

- **Obstacles** to places and context sensitive design
 - Design year traffic projections
 - Levels of Service
 - Design speed
 - Safety and liability issues
 - Leave it to the “experts” attitude
 - Bad zoning

- eat mor chicken